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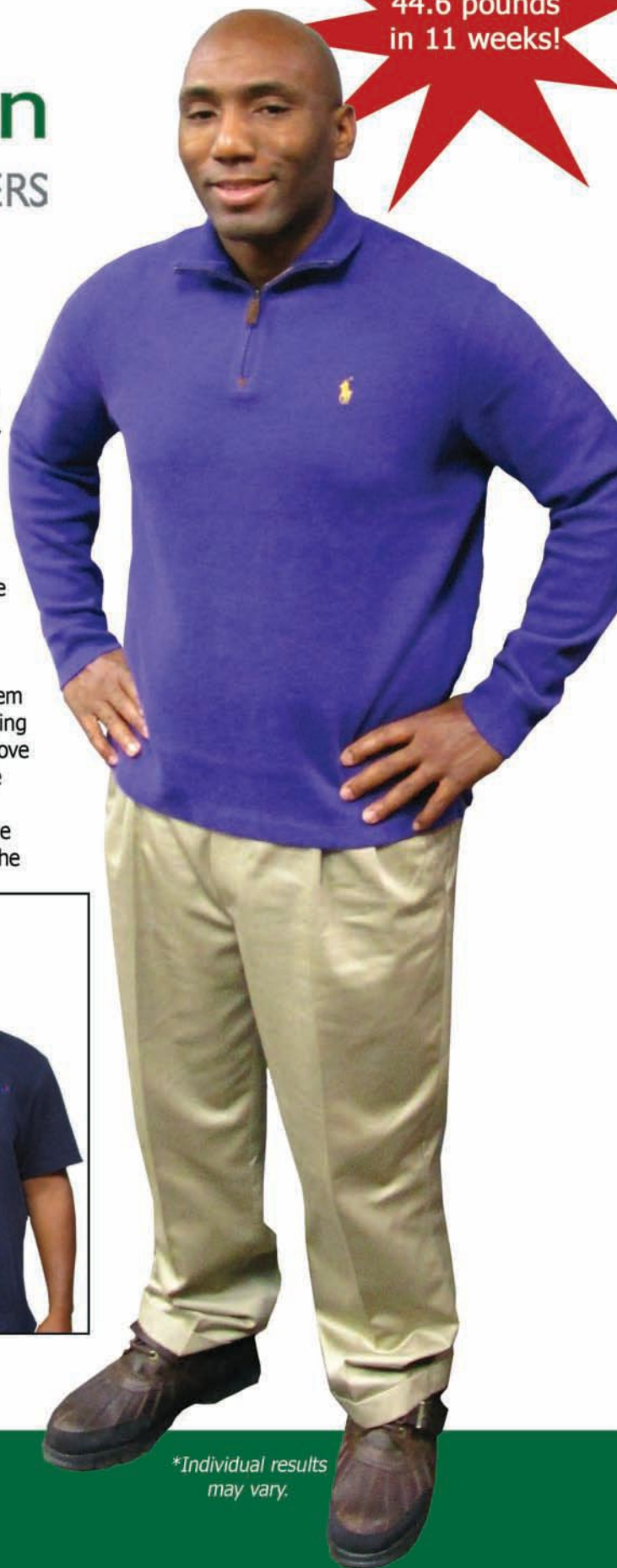
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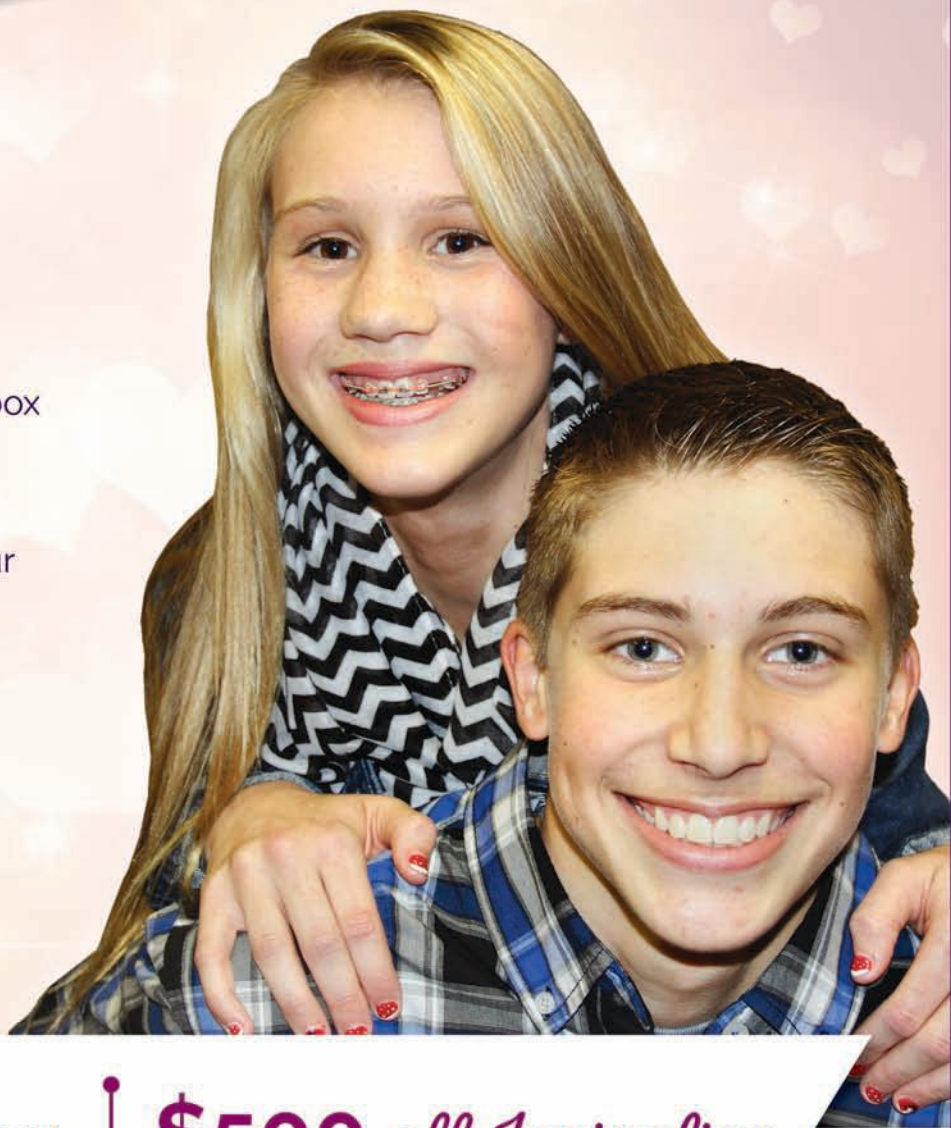
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ON THE COVER



Molly Denson knows everyone can learn something new each day.

Photo by SRC Photography.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Friends!

This month I'm classic. I'm wearing pearls! The most recent strands were bought just for me on my parents' 50th anniversary trip to China. Some older studs, rings and strands, handed down from Grandmother to my mother, had been gifts from my grandfather and father. These pearls remind me of family. Their travels helped make them the men they became, yet also separated them from loved ones.

My family's thoughts while overseas turned toward their beloveds' hearts. Now my ears, neck and hands

wear souvenirs brought home as love tokens.

Some are pure white, some wear a yellowish cast from age, while some more modern pearls are violet or sage green. Each melt the mind as they hold the gaze. Strange that art made by the greatest Creator could evoke physical sensations of affection.

Here's to many happy reunions!

Melissa

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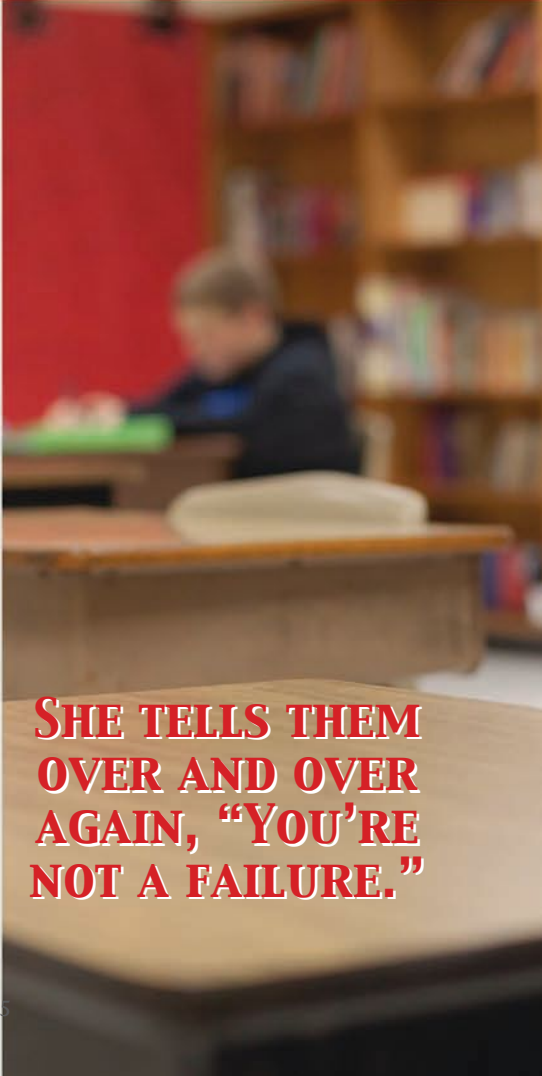
HELPING THEM SOAR

— By Melissa Rawlins

In this city of character, Molly C. Denson operates in full-spectrum generosity. Teaching her students at Kerr Middle School with respect so they will learn to respect, she tells them over and over again, “You’re not a failure.” And as every good employer will do, Miss D. works with each student according to where they are in their development. Miss D. will retire after 39 years of service at the end of this school year. For the last 10 years, she has taught in Burleson Independent School District. She’ll direct her helpfulness to veterans in need of companionship. But for now, she pours forth her energies for the sake of her students’ wholeness.

Miss D. serves in three roles: chairman of the special education department, language arts teacher and manager of the learning lab. She teaches language arts two days a week and math during special education classes two days per week. Juggling carefully to prevent becoming stale in any one, she teaches writing all along — even in math, where she might have her students write a paragraph using first person to describe the problem set before them. In reading, she might have three students focused on genre, one on plot development and four on voice. Energetically moving from student to student, helping them achieve objectives set by Texas State Education Agency, she mines her memory for attention-getting expressions for the lesson at hand.

Along with her hardworking team of teachers, Miss D. uses tricks of the trade to transform students. She leads 11 certified special education teachers and 13 instructional paraprofessionals like Becky Layne, who manages the learning lab for students needing special accommodations when Miss D. is teaching in another classroom. “We



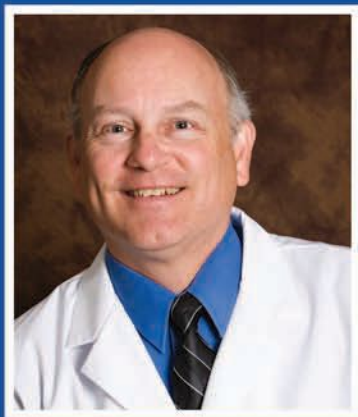
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walk in every day and know what we're going to do and how we're going to do it," Miss D. said. The teachers' task is to review the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) objectives — which are measured by the STARR test and necessary to move on to the next class — while moving forward throughout the year in only 60 minutes each day.



"It's a challenge, sometimes, to see how many different things you can come up with so kids won't be bored," Miss D. said. If she notices their attention wavering, she changes her approach to make sure there's a buy-in. Her favorite technique is to show them how they are going to use the concept she's teaching in the real world.

In math, her students take fractions and put them into a recipe. When she asks them to quadruple the recipe, they see math's relevance to real life. In the process, Miss D. moves in and out of the



desks, checking their work right then and there, correcting them and moving them to the right understanding immediately. Not satisfied with giving F's on their papers, she adjusts her presentation so each student masters the concept.


All year long, for instance, language arts students learn every conceivable trait of human nature in order to analyze



Sixth-grader Hunter Sells learns math with instructional assistant Tabitha Chapman and Molly Denson.

reading assignments and write essays. Even the wall of the language lab Miss D. manages boasts The Expository Pillar, teaching the five-paragraph pattern for writing effective short stories. Miss D's enthusiastic operating philosophy instills the confidence in her students that everyone can learn something new each day.


She applies the same theory to herself. This year, in order to help her reading class learn about character traits in a manner refreshing to her, she is using The Me Bag. Full of collected stuff



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Molly Denson appreciates Becky Layne, who runs the learning lab.

— one man's trash and another man's treasure — The Me Bag rests atop Miss D.'s desk. She pulls one item at a time from the bag. Holding it under a special camera mounted above her desk, she projects the image of the object on a big screen. "Then I ask my students to describe what characteristics they find in me from that object," she said. They have a cheat sheet in hand, listing almost 160 character traits from A to Z, some positive and some negative.

Concepts, such as The Me Bag, often come from brainstorming sessions with Kerr's four other language arts teachers, who share ideas that did or did not work for their students. Each teacher may customize ideas for their own students, according to their TEA pacing guides. "Planning together makes it fresh," Miss D. said.

Every core subject teacher takes students to a computer lab once per week. Miss D.'s classes use Study Island, a math and reading language station. Another lab works them through reading toward the sixth-grade TEKS using diagnostic tests to pinpoint those areas that would earn them a disability label. "So, we teach them a way to get around their disability," Miss D. explained. "Or we reteach the concept in a different manner or teach it again, straightforwardly, at their new level of maturity."

Having taught special education for almost three decades, Miss D. believes everyone has special needs. "All people have an area of weakness. That area of weakness is where you'll find their disability. If you can have a teacher help you figure out how to compensate for that, then you'll soar like everybody else,"

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Alexie Slatton studies sixth-grade reading and math with Miss D.

Miss D. remarked. "A lot of times, even gifted and talented children have behavior issues. That's weakness. We just don't label it Special Ed."

Math has always been Miss D.'s strongpoint, even as a child. "Numbers were solid. No matter whether it was an angry five or a happy birthday five, it was a five," Miss D. explained. Her weakness was reading. Labeled retarded by teachers at her private school, her inner life consisted of thinking about how to survive the daily abuse she endured at home. She was very intelligent, figuring out how to compensate and make A's and B's. In third grade, she decided to become a teacher so she could help other kids like herself.

When she moved out of her childhood home to attend college, she learned to read. She studied hard and achieved every degree necessary to teach home economics, first, and later special education.

She brought her dream to fruition. At Kerr, students in all of her classes are taught tools they can use to compensate for their weakness until those tools are removed. For example, many of Miss D.'s sixth-graders have to use a multiplication chart. Knowing some cannot add and subtract in their minds, she teaches them basic calculator functions. "It's perfectly acceptable in the real world to pull out my phone and use its calculator," Miss D. said. Giving children and adults new perspectives, Miss D.'s determination enables generations to thrive in the real world. **NOW**



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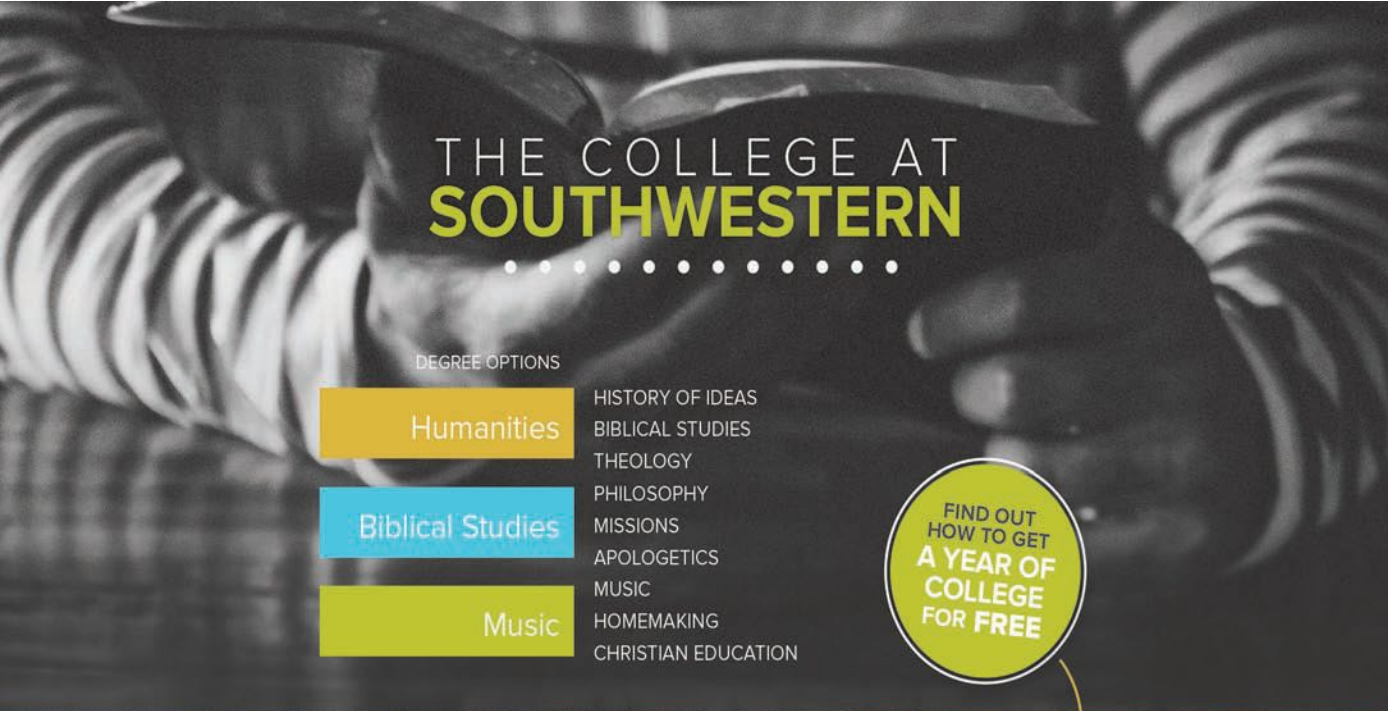

Niklas Resla, DDS Megan Belken, DDS
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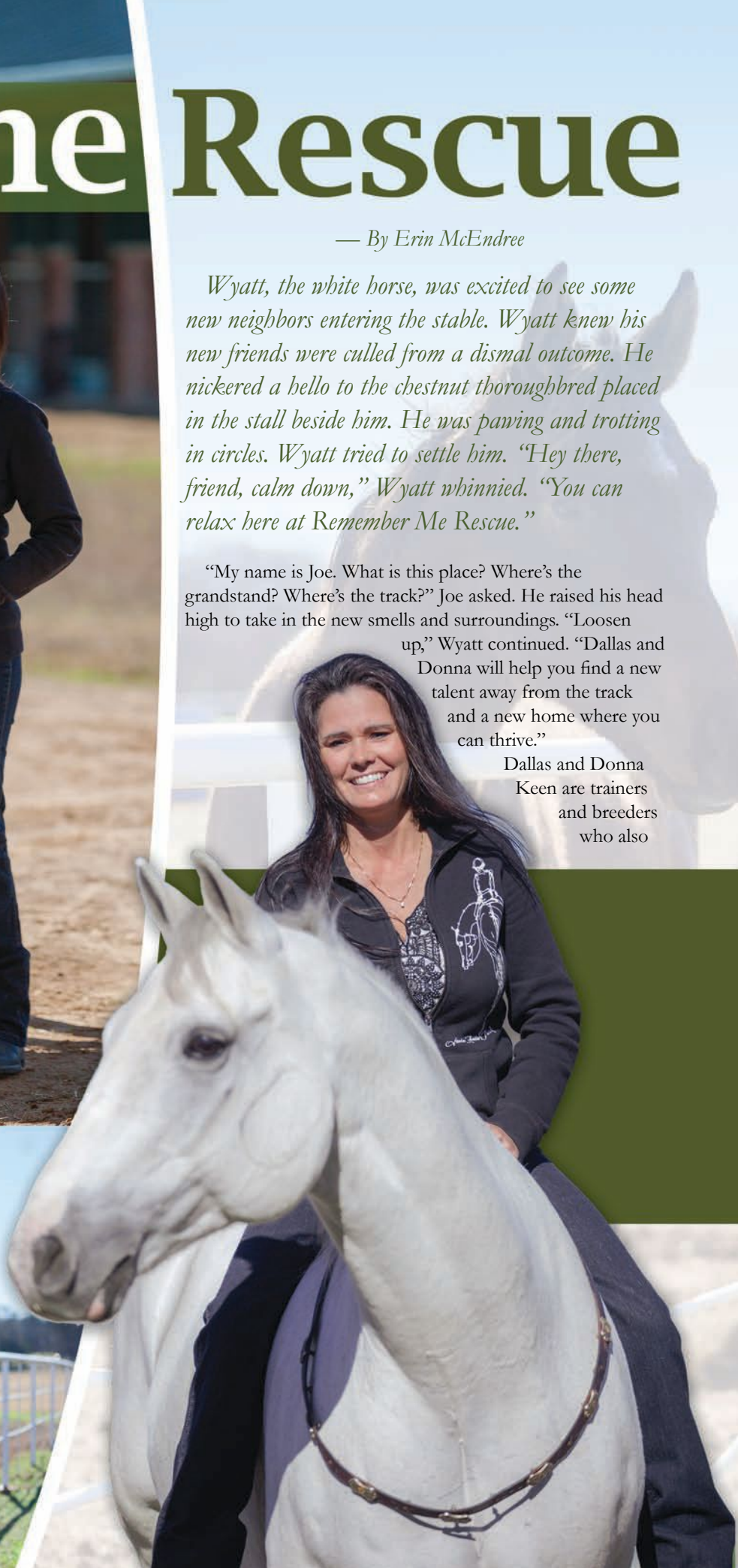
Equine Rescue

— By Erin McEndree

Wyatt, the white horse, was excited to see some new neighbors entering the stable. Wyatt knew his new friends were culled from a dismal outcome. He nickered a hello to the chestnut thoroughbred placed in the stall beside him. He was pawing and trotting in circles. Wyatt tried to settle him. "Hey there, friend, calm down," Wyatt whinnied. "You can relax here at Remember Me Rescue."

"My name is Joe. What is this place? Where's the grandstand? Where's the track?" Joe asked. He raised his head high to take in the new smells and surroundings. "Loosen up," Wyatt continued. "Dallas and Donna will help you find a new talent away from the track and a new home where you can thrive."

Dallas and Donna Keen are trainers and breeders who also



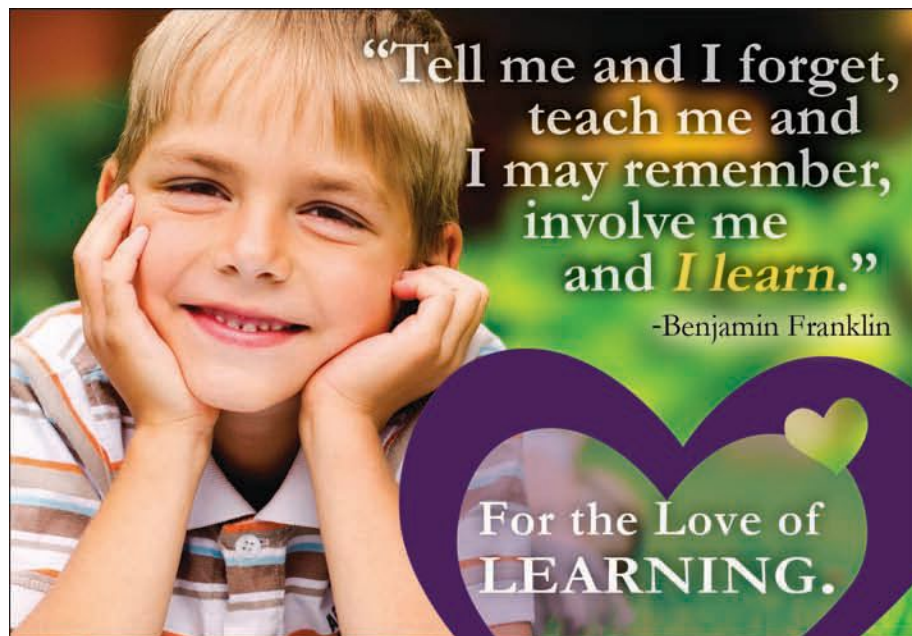
retrain thoroughbreds when it's time for them to retire from the racetrack. The couple is passionate about retraining thoroughbreds for a second career and re-homing them to start a new life.

When Donna was a small child growing up, she watched horse races on television. "I was not raised in the horse business. My dad was a car salesman," Donna explained. "When I turned 18, I started working for a horse trainer in Kennedale. He was an old cowboy trainer named Johnny Hendrick, who was mean to me and made me cry all the time." Donna admitted Johnny made her tough, and she thanks him for it every day. Donna learned the proper use of equipment, shoeing, bandaging and saddling. She also learned techniques on conditioning, feeding and safe handling tips. When Donna was 22, she passed the trainers test for the Texas Racing Commission and received her license.

Donna's personal horse is an impressive 13-year-old, white-grey named Wyatt that she rescued from a kill sale in Weatherford. Her horse goes with her everywhere. Wyatt works off of leg and seat cues and a neck collar with no bridle. While riding Wyatt at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Donna caught Dallas' eye. "We married in 2007, and

**Approximately
600 horses
have been
re-homed since
the opening of
the nonprofit.**

it was all because of my pony," Donna remembered with a smile. As horse trainers, Dallas and Donna go where the horses are. It's not uncommon for the couple to work in separate towns for weeks on end. "We both understood the demands of training," Donna said. "Some people think we're crazy, because we never see one another. But it works for us, because we are passionate about



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horses, and we understand each other.”

Their passion for horses grew to rehoming retired race horses. “We had rehomed our own horses, and people began asking us to take their horses,” Donna said. “We created Remember Me Rescue as a nonprofit organization in 2008 and began acquiring thoroughbreds to retrain and find new talents.” Approximately 600 horses have been re-homed since the opening of the nonprofit. They have new careers in dressage, jumping, barrel racing or mounted patrol ponies. Donna’s goal is to find and place more horses than the year before.

The retraining process consists of desensitizing exercises using tarps and stairs. “Thoroughbreds have a bad rap, but they are so easy to retrain. They have





already been ridden a million miles. When they realize they don't have to work so hard, they mellow out," Donna said. "They want to do what you ask. You just have to let them think about it. We treat them like they have never been ridden and start at the beginning with ground manners and lunges." Donna knows why the horses make the mistakes they do, and her goal is to change their way of thinking.

Besides rescues on Dallas and Donna's 20-acre ranch, they also have a breeding operation. They board two studs named Preferred Issue and Scrimshaw and



foal out over 40 mares between January and June. "My son, Michael, is here all the time, along with Daniel, a full-time handler," Donna explained. "We are blessed to have good people living here



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and good help at the track where I train.” Good people also volunteer with the horses to help them get daily exercise, and donors make pledges to help with feed and medical needs.

Social media has been a good tool to educate the public about rescuing thoroughbreds and promote adoption. “Midwest Thoroughbred, Inc. donated funds for our 20-stall barn, after I posted



a blog about a mare with colic. The barn was a God-thing,” Donna said. “I think social media is the way to go.”

Donna admits Wyatt has a Facebook page, and he has more followers than she does. Everyone thinks Wyatt is really cool and keeps up with his shenanigans. “Wyatt is like Houdini. He escapes from



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stalls and is known for one incident in which he ate 150 pounds of feed and had to be treated for colic,” Donna said. “In the grocery store, people I didn’t know would ask me how Wyatt was doing, because they follow him on Facebook.”

Two annual fundraisers support Remember Me Rescue. Battle of the X’s is scheduled for March 21 and 22 in the John Justin Arena at Will Rogers Coliseum in Fort Worth. Thirteen trainers randomly pick a horse from the rescues Donna previously selected from the ranch. The trainers have four months to train their horse to compete for prize money. The



horses are then auctioned to preapproved horsemen as a way to re-home the thoroughbreds. A second fundraiser is held at Lone Star Park in April and consists of a gala dinner, live and silent auctions and a keynote speaker.

Dallas and Donna, along with the seven board members for Remember Me Rescue, continually strive to make collective decisions based on their knowledge of horses to facilitate the thoroughbreds’ adoption and placement. Donna keeps her eyes and ears open for retired racers that will be good candidates for re-homing. She puts her heart into the horses she trains and wants each to have a long, fulfilling career after their track days.

A few months later, Joe was saying goodbye to Wyatt. “I’ve learned all types of walking and trotting techniques,” Joe said. “I can’t wait to use the new skills I’ve been taught.”

“I’m glad you’ve found a new talent and a new home,” Wyatt encouraged. “Good luck, friend.” The two whinnied as Daniel came to lead Joe away. There was a little extra skip in Joe’s step. **NOW**



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Authentic Vintage

— By Lisa Bell



The stuff of romantic stories isn't always fiction. During a one-week national fiddle contest, a boy met a girl. No, it wasn't love at first sight. After all, Sherry was only 11, and Joey was a mere 13 at the time. She traveled from Idaho, and he came from Oregon. Yet, they became good friends and kept in touch. They finally got serious while in their 20s. Their mutual love of music was the catalyst and a bond they still share.

Joey McKenzie enjoyed coming to Texas, meeting old fiddlers and learning the accent of their music style. About 25 years ago, he visited — and never left. With a job opportunity, he settled in Burleson, affectionately referring to his first residence as Rancho Starvo. Sherry joined him in Texas about five years later.

In 2013, after more than a decade of performing in Europe, Russia and 45 states, the McKenzies started a new company called Twin Fiddle Productions, producing and promoting musical events across the country. In addition, the champion fiddlers teach private and group lessons, and Joey deals in and





At Home With Joey and Sherry McKenzie

repairs vintage stringed instruments. Their appreciation of mid-century life made their Burleson home, built in 1965, a perfect fit. "Most fiddle players enjoy vintage things," Sherry said.

The couple began searching for a home several years ago and found the house in Burleson's Old Town. Emmett Harris had built the home for Dr. Brown and his wife, Beth. Sparing no money, they used the highest quality materials, making the last house Mr. Harris built a true masterpiece.

From the moment Joey and Sherry saw the house, they loved it. Driving to the airport one morning, Joey looked at Sherry. "What do you think? Should we pull the trigger on the house?" he asked.

"I love it. Let's do it," she replied. They called the Realtor. Unfortunately, someone else signed a contract the previous evening.

"Sherry teared up," Joey said. He



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consoled her, but he was disappointed, too. "Inside, I was thinking, That was the house for us. We won't find another one like it," he said.

Two months later, Joey cruised through an online real estate site and saw the house was on the market again. He didn't hesitate to call the new listing agent and asked to meet with her immediately. They had lost the house once, and he wasn't taking any chances.

One Realtor asked them why they were so excited about the house. He thought they would do major renovations, tearing out old tile and wall paneling. The '60s style was precisely what they loved about the home, and they had no intention of changing the original workmanship. Throughout the house, the initial fixtures and features remain intact, preserving the original style.

The kitchen alone underwent remodeling, but the cabinets and hardware remain the same. An abundance



of cabinets and counter space provide plenty of storage. Although the stovetop now has a smooth surface, they kept the separate double-oven mounted in the wall. Even with modern appliances, the room still has the charm of an older kitchen.

The family room has one wall made



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of brick, containing a big fireplace. The hearth stretches across the wall. Cozy, yet large enough, the room invites guests to get comfortable. Joey and Sherry often host out-of-town friends, many of whom are also musicians. "We have some epic jam sessions here," Sherry said.

The house has several pocket doors, providing privacy, yet not interfering with space. One of these closes off the kitchen. Beyond that door, a small room has an exterior exit. As a unique feature, an air conditioner hangs in the wall, which is literally built around it. Although the unit still works well, Joey and Sherry opted to add a vent, using the central heat and air conditioning from the rest of the home. A nearby half-bath makes the room a great place to teach music.

A retractable light and built-in china cabinet can be found in the dining room. Sherry collects fiddle bottles made from different types of glass. She displays them in the china cabinet but also has them scattered throughout the house. "Sherry has been collecting those for years, and she has one of the biggest collections in the country," Joey said. The bottles, shaped like fiddles or other stringed instruments, at one time held cologne, bubble bath or, sometimes, whiskey.

Much of the furnishings in the house are a Danish modern, mid-century style. "We had a few pieces of that," Joey said. "When we got the house, we started scouring the finest garage sales, junk stores and antique malls." They prefer authentic vintage instead of new pieces made to look old.

In the living room, a bowed window looks out over big trees where birds sing and squirrels scamper. "You can sit here on the sofa, and the sound echoes back across the room," Sherry said. They replaced the carpet, but kept the original color and style.

In all three bathrooms, everything remains as it was first built. The McKenzies painted and scrubbed drawer pulls and fixtures, but loved the colors. One bathroom has a pale yellow tile, tub, sink and toilet. Another features a

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rose-colored pink, while the third sports a salmon color used rarely during the '50s and '60s. The sinks in each bath have a somewhat hidden soap dish across from the faucet. Because of magnificent quality, the couple didn't need to replace anything. From the toilet seat covers, to a decal with instructions on how to use the shower, these rooms haven't changed except for a fresh coat of paint.

Draperies made specifically for the house still decorate windows. After so many years, they look as though a seamstress made them just yesterday and carefully hung them in each room. Even the quilts on the beds capture the essence of former times.



Upstairs, they also replaced carpet, but kept the look and style of 1965. Where Dr. Brown had a study with built-in bookshelves, Joey and Sherry have created a music room. Vintage albums, including 78 RPM records, line the shelves. They have an overabundance of storage space, which they appreciate coming from a house where opening a closet required ducking away from falling items.

Their love of vintage expands to the garage and back patio. They still own Sherry's first car — a 1965 Ford Mustang Fastback and a yellow Checker Marathon taxi-style car. An old Coke machine graces the patio, as well as the vintage bicycles they ride.

"We love having friends come and visit," Sherry said. The size and layout of the house are ideal for guests and out-of-state students. "I don't think we could have designed a house that fits our needs better," Joey said.

While most people remodel almost 50-year-old houses, the McKenzies keep their home authentic to its time period. And since they treat every room with tender care, perhaps the original fixtures will last another 50 years. **NOW**



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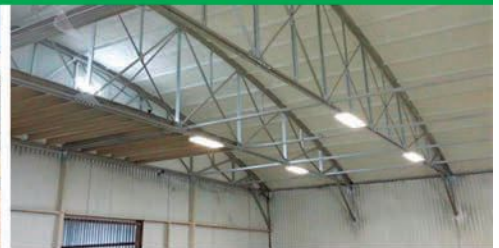
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Before You Tie *the* Knot

— By Shannon Pfaff

From the dress to the favors, the cake to the invitations, a wedding has many components that need to come together. There are countless options to choose from. You may find yourself overwhelmed trying to narrow down the scope of your choices in order to help you decide on the individual pieces of your big day. A great way to do that is by choosing a theme for your wedding.

A theme ties all of your ideas together, so your ceremony and reception flow with each other. You can choose a song, season, pattern, color, etc. around which to build your wedding. What type of wedding do you want to have? Would you prefer a more modern wedding or something rustic? Maybe your dream-come-true wedding is a fairy-tale style affair. Perhaps you would like to create your special day around your favorite color. Maybe you have already found the

perfect dress, and you'd like to design the wedding around its style. The theme of your wedding can be anything you desire it to be.

Choosing a theme can also be a creative way to illustrate who you and your husband-to-be are as a couple. Are you an adventurous pair? Did you meet in an unusual way? Do you have a mutual passion, such as music or food? The things you enjoy together can create a unique theme. Your individual family heritage can also be a beautiful backdrop for your wedding.

Once you have decided on your theme, you can have the wedding professionals you employ help you incorporate that



theme into each aspect of your wedding. When you are choosing your wedding gown, a bridal consultant can help you with dress options that coordinate with your theme. They can also help you with attire options for the wedding party that will complement your dress. The consultant can also advise you on hairstyles and accessory choices for your gown. Your hairstylist can offer hair options, as well as showing you how to pair those options with any desired accessories.

If your theme is related to color, a florist can help you incorporate that shade into flower arrangements, bouquets and table settings. Even if your theme is

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not based on color, the florist can advise on color choices to complement your theme. They will also help with seasonal



floral options and can offer advice on low-cost options for your decor.

You will want to be sure the theme you choose will fit the time of year you desire for your big day. If you have an idea about the season for your nuptials,



you will want to be certain the venue is appropriate. If you don't have a wedding planner, you can contact the person who coordinates events at your chosen venue. They can inform you of the ideal seasonal conditions for their location.

After your theme has been selected, there will still be several decisions to



make about the wedding. You will, however, have a better understanding of what your selections should look like. Here are a few theme examples to get you started:

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You will want to choose a simple, A-line dress or a ball gown to complement your theme. Consider dramatic lighting for your venue, such as candlelight or tiny lights strung across the ceiling or around potted trees. Formal wedding cakes are generally elegant with multiple layers to create a focal point for your reception.

Vintage-style

If you love the style of eras gone by, then a vintage wedding could be perfect for you. Selecting a genuinely vintage wedding dress allows you the opportunity to have a unique design versus a modern mass-produced dress. Family members may be a good source for vintage items to use for your decor. They may also be a valuable source for vintage jewelry. Lace can add a vintage touch to your decor and your attire. Keep the colors and decor simple to stay true to simpler times.



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for your dress, because you can add rustic touches to any gown you choose.

However you decide to define your special day, there will be no shortage of wonderful options to create your perfect wedding. The wedding professionals you choose will provide options and show you examples to help you along the way. Selecting a theme is an important step to making the planning process more manageable and can be the best way for you to tie your ideas together before you tie the knot! **NOW**

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Tanya Birchfield and Michelle Crane work with a group of caring professionals who make Inspire Salon a welcoming, encouraging family of friends.



Living the Dream

The atmosphere at Inspire Salon and Spa encourages transformation on every level.

— By Melissa Rawlins

Pampering begins with a comforting fireplace, hot drink and cushy leather couch offered by loving people. Tanya Birchfield and Michelle Crane, who were friends first, business partners second, run Inspire Salon and Spa like a family. Since September 2013, they have devoted their days to caring for everyone who enters the salon, and it feels just like home.

Customers sense the miracle appreciated so much by Tanya and Michelle, who met 16 years ago. Since then, they've worked together most of the time, always envisioning owning their own salon. "God put the dream in our hearts," Michelle said, "and then provided a fabulous place for us to come in

and go for it. We've been blessed ever since."

"God really does establish the work of our hands," Tanya said. "He has hand-placed all our staff." Inspire's newest stylists, Tori Atwood, Amanda Baker and Jamie Isel, focus on color, highlights, cutting and styling, just like Tanya and Michelle. Michelle is known for short cuts with pizzazz, plus coloring in the reds. Tanya is known for styling long hair, plus coloring in the blondes.

Tori, Amanda and Jamie are younger and in tune with what's trending. Jamie excels at ombres, a color technique keeping the roots dark and the tips light. She also cuts men's hair,

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and can't help but show compassion for every one of her clients. Tori is developing a loyal following who want her amazing updos, color and specialty hair for weddings and parties. Amanda's customers enjoy her sweetly spirited sense of humor and encouragements as much as the pretty hairstyles she produces. "Our girls do the purple and fuchsia very well, and we learn from them! It's fun," Michelle said.

For women or men seeking skin care, Inspire Salon's vivacious esthetician specializes in all types of waxing and facials. Eyelash extensions are only one of their services. Customers can also get makeup applications, as well as chemical peels and microdermabrasion.

Michelle and Tanya greet everyone who enters Inspire Salon and Spa. When they're not busy, they sweep up hair clippings or shampoo out color. They also keep the front lobby stocked with a few luxuries that Michelle and Tanya feel are actually necessities. First, they stock the same L'ANZA and Joico hair products that their stylists use to condition, heal and bring out the shine. Next to those colorful bottles, they sell extraordinarily comfortable flip-flops made by Yellow Box. Soon, their shelves will be filled with the latest spring styles, each a little blingy yet very classy. They also sell Tyler Candles, so customers can take home their favorite ambience.

Sometimes, these busy ladies need a little down time, too. They have tried every one of Inspire Salon and Spa's three massage therapists. Marsha Kinsey specializes in therapeutic and medical massages and can file insurance claims. Galina Tchoukovskaia performs relaxing European massage. Gwen Womack is a sweet, loving massage therapist, who sometimes sings while she massages — if you want her to.

Call today to customize your own Valentine's Day spa package. "We welcome you with open arms, no matter your background or beliefs," Tanya said. When you come for the day, your lunch is part of the package. Spend a day relaxing with the caring staff at Inspire Salon and Spa. You'll be inspired, and will find they are just as inspired by you. **NOW**



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Alexis Newton, Ronald Mugunda and their mom, Kristie Newton, enjoy lunch at Dairy Queen.



BACC Ambassadors host a ribbon cutting for The Cottage Market.



Brandi Burgess hangs out in her creative gallery on FM 917, where she makes jewelry in memory of her fallen hero, Bryan Burgess.



Lizzy Cardenas, 8th grader at Hughes Middle School, won the local Lions International Peace Poster competition and both she and her mother, Idalia, were honored with flowers by Lion Hank Hoaldrige.



Mike Thedford with his buddies, Heck and Newt, two very intelligent mini Australian Shepherds.



John Ricketts and his father, Leon Ricketts, hang out at Auto Center of Burleson fixing up their one-of-a-kind midget for the Chili Bowl Midget Nationals.



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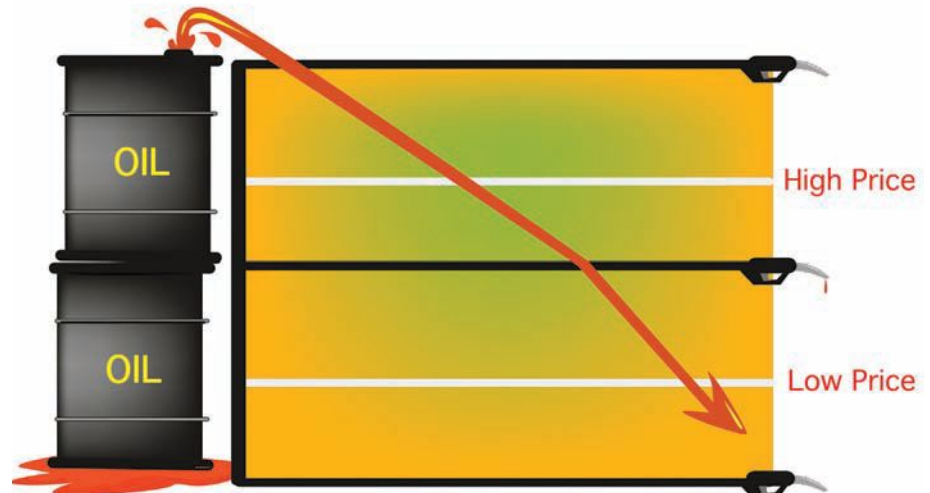
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What Do Low Oil Prices Mean for Investors?

As you've no doubt noticed, your trips to the gas station have been a lot more pleasant these past several months. There's not much doubt that low oil prices have been welcome to you as a driver. But when oil is cheap, is that good for you as an investor?

There's no clear-cut answer. But consider the following effects of low oil prices:

- *Positive impact on economy* — When you spend less at the gas pump, relative to recent years, what will you do with your savings? Like most people, you'll probably spend most of it on goods and services. If you multiply the amount of your increased spending by the millions of other Americans who are also saving money on gas, you can see that you and your fellow consumers are likely adding billions of dollars to the economy. Typically, a strong economy is also good for the financial markets — and for the people who invest in them.



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• *Different results for different sectors —*

Different sectors within the financial markets may respond in different ways to low oil prices, even if the overall effect is generally positive. For example, businesses such as consumer goods companies and auto manufacturers may respond favorably to cheaper oil and gas. But the picture might be quite a bit different for energy companies.

You could spend a lot of time and effort trying to adjust your investment portfolio in response to low oil prices. In fact, you may well want to consult with your financial professional to determine which moves might make sense for your individual situation. Yet there's actually a bigger lesson to be learned here: Don't overreact to temporary developments. The recent decline in oil prices has certainly had an economic impact, but no one can predict how long these prices will stay low or what other factors may arise that would affect the financial markets. That's why you can't reconfigure your portfolio based on particular events, whatever they may be — oil price drops, interest rate fluctuations, political squabbles at home, natural disasters in faraway lands and so on.

If you can keep from being overly influenced by specific events, you may be able to gain at least two key benefits: First, by not making trades constantly in reaction to the headlines of the day, you can avoid piling up heavy fees and commissions — costs that can reduce the return rate on your investments. Second, you'll find that if you aren't always thinking about what's going on in the world today, you can focus your investment efforts more intensely on where you want to be tomorrow. The most successful investors set long-term goals and don't focus on factors they cannot control, such as oil prices, interest-rate changes or other economic events. Instead, these investors make adjustments, as necessary, to accommodate changes in their goals as well as other changes, such as revisions in tax laws — but they basically stick to their same approach for the long term.

So be aware of low oil prices, but don't get so pumped about them that you sludge up your consistent investment strategy. That strategy has the energy to keep you moving toward your important objectives. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Lynn H. Bates is an Edward Jones representative based in Burleson.

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February 3

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February 6 — April 15

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Center. Enjoy entertainment by Jesse
Jennings. \$40. RSVP by **Feb. 3** to Terri
Horn, (817) 297-4211.

February 7

Father/Daughter & Mother/Son
Valentine Dance: 4:00-6:30 p.m. and
6:30-9:00 p.m., the BRiCk, 550 NW
Summercrest Blvd. Pictures, corsages,
dinner, dancing and games. \$16 per
couple. Call the BRiCk, (817) 426-9104.

February 10

Business After Hours: 5:30-7:00 p.m.,
Citizens National Bank of Texas,
130 NW John Jones Dr., Suite 232. This
fun evening of networking is free to
Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce
members. Call (817) 295-6121.

February 19

BAAC Awards Luncheon:
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., First United
Methodist Church. Keynote presentation
by Craig Couch honors recipients of the
Chamber Legacy Awards for Service,
ATHENA Woman of the Year and STAR
Small Businesses of the Year. Reserve a
table to represent your organization for

\$300; individual tickets \$20. RSVP
(817) 295-6121.

February 24

30th Annual JACC Awards Banquet:
6:30 p.m., First Methodist Church, 114
Paula St., Joshua. Sponsored by Atmos
Energy, this mid-winter banquet warms
hearts throughout the area as awards are
given to Joshua ISD Teachers of the Year
and many other super citizens. \$45 by
Feb. 10; \$50 at the door. RSVP to Joshua
Area Chamber of Commerce,
(817) 556-2480.

February 28 — March 1

Texas Independence Day Celebration:
Friday and Saturday, Historic Square in
Granbury. Remember the Alamo while
enjoying bull riding on The Beach,
vendors on the Beach and the downtown
square, a parade, reenactors, Indians,
music, petting zoo at Langdon Center and
the Student History Fair and children's
activities at the Hilton Garden Inn. Full
schedule at www.march2Texas.com, or
contact Teresa Sims, (817) 578-0234.

*Submissions are welcome and published as
space allows. Send your event details to
melissa.rawlins@nowmagazines.com.*



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In the Kitchen With Nelson Antill

— By *Melissa Rawlins*

Since Hurricane Rita sent Nelson Antill and his family to Burleson, they've made wonderful friends. When not playing golf at Hidden Creek, they enjoy preparing meals in the family tradition. "My favorite cook is my wife, Luella," Nelson said. "She cooks all our special meals with recipes handed down from her mother, grandmother and aunt." While making gumbo with Luella on a cold day in February, 1980, Nelson started cooking with gusto. He learned secrets for his specialty — jambalaya — from his brother-in-law, Norris Guidry. Now, Nelson's family asks him to cook jambalaya whenever he visits them in Houma, Louisiana. Here at home, friends enjoy it served with fried catfish. And what a thrill he gets when his grandchildren ask him to cook Shrimp Crab Gumbo every time they visit. **NOW**

Shrimp Crab Gumbo

Serves 8-10.

- 2 large onions**
- 3-4 quarts of water**
- 1 16-oz. jar dark roux**
(or make your own: **8 oz. oil** and **8 oz. flour**)
- 2 bunches green onions, chopped**
- 4 lbs. peeled shrimp**
- 1 pint white crab meat**
- 3 Tbsp. Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning**
- 1 tsp. hot sauce**
- 1 Tbsp. salt**
- 5 cups rice, cooked**

- 1.** Chop onions into small pieces. Heat water to boiling; add onions, boiling until onions are clear.
- 2.** If making your own roux, heat oil; add flour, stirring constantly to avoid burning the roux. Slowly add roux to onion mixture until

it is dissolved. The more roux you add, the thicker the mixture.

- 3.** Add 1/2 green onions, all shrimp, crab and seasonings. Cook for 1 hour over medium heat. You can cook longer, at a lower temperature, to allow seasonings to blend better.
- 4.** Right before serving, add remaining green onions. Serve in a bowl over rice.

Shrimp Sausage Jambalaya

Serves 8-10.

- 1 12- to 14-oz. pkg. salt pork or bacon, chopped**
- 4 large onions, diced**
- 2 16-oz. pkgs. smoked pork sausage**
- 5 cups water**
- 1 Tbsp. Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning**
- 1 bundle green onions**
- 2-3 lbs. shrimp, peeled**
- 1 tsp. Louisiana Hot Sauce (not Tabasco)**

3 cups medium grain rice, uncooked

- 1.** In a cast iron pot, brown salt pork; remove from pan and keep the grease.
- 2.** Brown onions in pork fat over medium-high heat, stirring constantly for 30 minutes, or until dark brown.
- 3.** Cut sausage into 1/4- or 1/2-inch slices; add to browned onions. When grease starts to appear from the sausage, add 5 cups of water and increase temperature to medium-high. Stir in seasoning.
- 4.** Chop green onions, reserving green parts for garnish. Add white parts to the sausage mixture, along with shrimp, Louisiana Hot Sauce and rice. Stir and add meaty bits of salt pork. When it comes to a boil, turn heat to low or medium and cover.
- 5.** Cook, covered, for 15 minutes.
- 6.** Stir and taste. Add more seasoning, if needed. Cover and cook on low for 15 minutes, checking every 5 minutes. More water can be added, if needed.
- 7.** You will have a little bit of overcooked rice on bottom, but that's OK; some people like the bottom of the pot. Garnish with onion greens right before serving.

Louisiana Fried Catfish

Serves 4.

- 2 lbs. catfish fillets**
- 1/2 cup Crystal Hot Sauce or Louisiana Hot Sauce**
- 1 Tbsp. prepared mustard**
- 1 qt. vegetable or peanut oil**
- 1 12-oz. box Zatarain's Wonderful Fish Fri**
- 2 Tbsp. Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning**

- 1.** Cut catfish to size desired and place in a bowl. Mix in hot sauce and mustard. Allow to chill for 2 hours.
- 2.** Heat oil to 350 F.
- 3.** Pour Zatarain's and Tony's into a pan. Place catfish in the mixture, coating all surfaces of fish.
- 4.** Cook fish in hot oil until fish floats to the top and turns a golden brown color.
- 5.** Sprinkle fish with Tony's for more flavor, after fish has been removed from grease.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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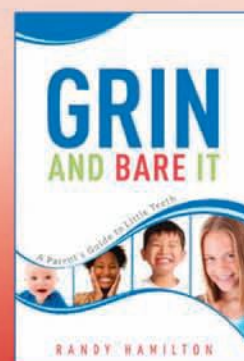


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